As on 1.4.2003, the estimated balance recoverable reserves of natural gas in the State of Tripura are about 27 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) as against the total balance recoverable reserves of 853 BCM in the country.

(c) to (e) Total allocation of natural gas in the State of Tripura to different consumers, mainly to M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) Suma Powergen Pvt. Ltd., Oswal Chemical, KSK Energy and Tripura State Electricity Department (TSED), is 7.34 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD). As against this, the average drawl of natural gas in the current year was around 1.20 MMSCMD, by M/s TSED, NEEPCO and Triupra Natural Gas Company Ltd. (TNGCL); other units have not reached the stage of gas drawl.

Further during the Tenth Plan period (2002-07) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has planned to invest Rs. 363.22 crores on seismic survey, exploratory drilling and production facilities in addition.Government has offered one exploration block, *viz.* AA-ONN-2002/1 under fourth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

New discoveries by ONGC

1497. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has discovered new oil findings in upper Assam recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has made the following two oil finds during 2002-03 in Upper Assam, the details of which are given below:

1. Laiplingaon: This prospect is located about 20 kilometers (Km) East North-East of Sivasagar Town in Sivasagar District of Assam. The hydrocarbon find in this location is significant, because multiple stacked oil pools, north of giant Lakwa-Lakhmani field have been established thus opening up entire sector for exploration. As on 1.4.2003, an

"inplace" hydrocarbon of 15.53 million tonnes (MMT) resources of oil plus oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) have been established in this find. Based on the seismic data, two locations have been released for drilling of development wells.

2. Banamali: This prospect is located in the Northeast of Lakwa field and North of Safrai field in Sivasagar District. A significant find in this structure has opened up the sector to the Northeast of Lakwa field for exploration. The 'inplace' hydrocarbons resources established in this field, as on 1.4.2003 is 0.28 MMT (O+OEG).

With a view to consolidate this find, four more exploratory locations have been identified for drilling.

Production of CNG

1498. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PERTROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles running on CNG throughout the country;

(b) the details of production of CNG from Oil wells in the country;

(c) whether the amount of CNG generated would be enough to suffice the usage for the next 10 years keeping in view the growth of number of CNG vehicles on Indian roads;

(d) whether Government feels fit to search and research for another alternate fuel now rather than wait till its too late; and

(e) if so, the details of any research being undertaken at this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There are more than 1,85,000 CNG vehicles throughout the country.

(b) CNG is Natural Gas compressed to about 200 bars for use as auto fuel. Production of natural gas as on 1.4.2003 was about 85 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD).

(c) No formal assessment has been made in this regard.